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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	POGE-S	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
	SOULE	
	MACBETH	
	SHOFFY	
	QUIST	
	SOMERVILLE	
✓	BAUER	
✓	BARROWS	
✓	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
✓	Peyton	
✓	WOLLERANDT	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

For

AUGUST

1945

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

September 5, 1945.

[illegible] for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of August 1945.

Weather Conditions. Several storms occurred during August bringing [illegible] inches of precipitation as compared with .61 inch for August 1944. Lightning accompanied most of the storms, but the relatively large amount of moisture prevented the occurrence of serious forest fires. Some brief periods were quite warm and a maximum temperature of 88° was recorded on August 2. The minimum temperature for the same station was 34° on the 27th. There were 17 clear days, 7 partly cloudy, and 7 cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the Park, with the exception of a trip to Bellatin with Chief Ranger Barrows on August 19 to meet with the Gallatin Conservation Committee group, and one trip to Moran, Wyoming, on the 5th to pick up Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Reid.

Rationing of gasoline and most other items except meat, butter, fats, tires, shoes, and sugar was discontinued on August 15. The release of gasoline rationing caused an immediate influx of visitors into the Park - more than double previous travel. Nearly all Yellowstone employees worked August 15 and 16 in spite of the fact that the President advised Government employees over the radio that they would be entitled to be excused for those two days. Travel passed the 100,000 mark on August 20, for the first time since 1942. Three thousand two hundred ninety-five people entered the Park on August 26, the largest travel day since July 4, 1942.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe returned to duty on August 1, after having been absent on extended sick leave since May 17. Lloyd E. Nelson, Postmaster, transferred to the Navy Department, Mare Island, Vallejo, California, on August 16. Susanna M. Sowman, Clerk-Stenographer, resigned, effective August 18. John G. Meabeth, Personnel Clerk, left Yellowstone on August 19, transferring to Mount Rainier National Park.

Francis P. Moylance, Property Clerk, was released from the U. S. Navy on August 13. He visited the Park on August 20 and advised us that he expects to return to his old job here on November 1. Frank H. Anderson, District Park Ranger, has been discharged from the Navy, and on his visit here on August 23, he advised that he wishes to return to his old job sometime in October. Roger E. Miller, Foreman-Mechanic, has advised us that he was discharged from the Navy on August 3, and wishes to return to his old job on October 1.

Inspections. A. A. Work, Soil Conservation Service, Medford, Oregon, and W. D. Griddle, Soil Conservation Service, Boise, Idaho, in office August 3 to

discuss snow courses with Superintendent Rogers; Boyd Larsen, Finance Officer (former Park employee), Earl D. Brooks, Personnel Officer, Washington, D. C., George D. Williams, Field Examiner, Little Rock, Arkansas, and P. O. Morgan, Rohwer, Arkansas, all of the War Relocation Authority, in West August 2, and out West August 4; Frank Mattson, Region Two Landscape Architect, in August 5 from Teton, out North August 6; Frank Childs, Regional Forester, in South August 5, out North August 7; Dr. M. M. Ellis, W. S. Platner, D. K. Meier, and Richard O. Jones, Fish and Wildlife Service, in August 13 regarding stream pollution; Oliver G. Taylor, Supervisor of Concessions, Director's Office, and Mrs. Taylor, also Wilson H. George, Chief, Operations and Contract Division, in East August 13, out North August 17; Carl P. Russell, Chief Naturalist, and Mrs. Russell in South August 14, out South August 22; Martin A. Cannon, Chief Concessions Division, Region Two, in North August 16; Paul R. Franke, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, in South August 21; C. H. Chapman, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, in August 22; Weldon B. Robinson, Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, in August 24 on coyote control operations; Roy Casey, Federal Prison Inspector, in East August 24; Dr. Herbert E. Gregory, U. S. Geological Survey, in South with Superintendent Franke, August 30; M. C. Riley, Forester, and H. E. Swanson, Regional Leader, Blister Rust Control, Bureau of Entomology, Spokane, in August 31.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. Some fly lines were run at Canyon in connection with the proposed gravity sewer line.

General Publicity. A press release was issued and distributed to radio stations and newspapers in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, also to Denver and Salt Lake City on August 25, giving closing dates for park operators' facilities in the Park. The mimeographed circular of information for visitors was reissued on August 29, showing closing dates for accommodations.

Maintenance. The past month has been one of the toughest on our road system for a long time. Rainfall has been above normal. Traffic has been heavy, and the labor problem the worst of any period since the beginning of the war.

Heavy patching has been a continuous operation on all older road sections, and with the labor shortage, we have been unable to keep up with this operation. Men have been leaving since the first of the month and it has been necessary to combine several of our road camps.

Building maintenance consisted of routine repairs and painting. One of our permanent painters was on sick leave undergoing an appendectomy and one of the per diem men resigned.

Concessioners. Mr. W. M. Nichols, President, Yellowstone Park Company, was in the Park on August 13 and August 28.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Museum attendance increased rapidly after the middle of the month, and even exceeded that for August 1942 at the Mammoth Museum, total attendance being 5,247.

Several of the museum cases in the Mammoth Museum were cleaned inside, and most of the janitor work in the museum was done by the naturalists.

Photographing of several objects in exhibit cases was done by Dr. Carl P. Russell while he was in the Park.

The new Information Manual on Yellowstone National Park was received from the binder, and several copies were sent to the Regional Office and to the Director's Office. Other copies will be held in the Library in Yellowstone to be loaned to employees who should have the information contained in this manual.

One talk was given at the CPS camp during the month. All 25 members of this camp attended.

Research and Observations. An accurate and reliable report of geyser activity was prepared and submitted by seasonal ranger Herbert T. Lystrup. This report was included in the Report of the Naturalist Division for August 1945.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Travel was approximately double that for the corresponding period of 1944. Cars entering the Park totalled 16,794 as compared to 6,680 in August 1944; an increase of 151.4 per cent. Total number of visitors was 59,728 as compared with 24,285 for the same month last year, an increase of 146 per cent. Total visitors for the season to August 31 was 132,201; an increase of 81.4 per cent over the same period of 1944.

Visitors. Margaret O'Brien, juvenile movie star, and party from Jackson Hole who are photographing a feature picture for MGM came in South August 5. The party consisted of her mother, Margaret O'Brien, Bill Lyons, Publicity Director, Marshall Thompson, romantic star of picture being filmed "Bad Bascombe," N. J. Hopcroft, cameraman, Miss Choate, teacher and governess, and J. Carroll Naish, villain of the picture. They took pictures of Margaret O'Brien and Thompson at Old Faithful and several other places in the Park for publicity purposes. They went out South August 5.

Kenneth Reid, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League, in South August 5, with Mrs. Reid; Colonel Jerome D. Cambre, and Lt. Col. John T. Halsell, U. S. Army, in August 13. Colonel Cambre was formerly in charge of a CCC camp in Yellowstone; Dr. Earl H. Morris, Archeologist, University of Colorado in August 20; Congressman W. H. Stevenson, of Wisconsin, in East August 22, out South 23rd; Edward N. Scheiberling, National Commander of the American Legion, and Mrs. Scheiberling, James J. O'Connor, his Aide, and Roscoe Turner, noted aviator, in North August 22, out North 24th; Congressman Hugh Peterson, of Georgia, in North August 31.

Ranger Service. The heavy travel during August made it necessary for the rangers to devote most of their efforts to handling of additional work incidental to increased park use. The entrance checking stations experienced difficulty, particularly after the end of gasoline rationing, in handling routine work with the limited personnel available. Five seasonal rangers found it necessary to leave by the end of the month, leaving only ten seasonal rangers on duty. The inauguration of the 44-hour week further reduced the operating personnel.

Traffic accidents increased with the travel and the investigation of these accidents required considerable time as did the search for a man who disappeared with a small boat on Yellowstone Lake. Fortunately, the fire season proved lighter than average, but six rangers were dispatched to Glacier National Park on August 26, to assist with the suppression of a large fire.

Police Protection. Three cases were presented before the United States Commissioner during August. One defendant who was found guilty of petty larceny served two days in the Yellowstone Park jail and three others who entered pleas of guilty to a charge of stealing gasoline served five days each in jail. Two visitors, who had more than the prescribed number of fish in their possession, paid fines of ten dollars each.

Two boys who escaped from the Montana State Industrial School, at Miles City, Montana, were apprehended, while driving a stolen car, by a park ranger at West Yellowstone. The escapees were turned over to Montana authorities.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. Bears:

Comparative Bear Injuries and Damages

	1944			Season to	1945			Season to
	June	July	August	Date	June	July	August	Date
Personal Injuries	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
Property Damages	1	13	3	17	1	3	0	4
Total Incidents	2	13	4	19	1	3	1	5
Bears Killed	0	8	2	10	0	1	0	1

Winter Range. A very good forage crop has been produced this season on the northern Yellowstone range. The volume of forage is slightly below that of the record crop produced in 1944 because of lesser height growth. An abundance of moisture which was recorded during August prevented the premature drying of the soil and vegetation, and permitted the range plants to cure gradually producing a winter forage of maximum nutritive value.

Forest Fire Protection. Two reportable fires were suppressed during the month, listed as follows:

Pelican Creek Fire, August 11, Account 320.4. This fire was reported on August 11, 1945, to Park Ranger Noah, Lake Ranger Station. The fire was searched for from 9 a.m. on the 11th to 4:15 p.m. on the 12th. The fire was controlled on the 12th and out on the 13th. One tree was on fire.

Soda Butte Creek Fire, August 14, Account 320.5. This fire was discovered by a tourist and reported to Lamar Ranger Station. District Ranger Coleman hired one fire fighter and suppressed it immediately.

The presuppression crew has been engaged throughout the month in the construction of the Purple Mountain Trail until August 25, when the crew was depleted by the necessity of replacing several fire guards who had resigned to return to school.

Trails. Fire guards in all districts have continued the maintenance of trails in order that they may be ready for use in case of fire.

Construction of the Purple Mountain trail was continued until the 27th, when crews were sent to Glacier Park on fire suppression duty. A total of [illegible] miles of heavy construction has been completed. This trail will be completed when 2500 feet is constructed on the top section. This trail has been surveyed since 1942 and will be used to establish a lookout.

Insects and Tree Diseases. During August the Cow Creek camp completed blister rust control work on approximately 375 acres in the Kootenai area with a total of 612 man-days charged to the project. Out of this, a total of 190 man-days were devoted to fire preseuppression or trail building on Purple Mountain for a new fire lookout. Approximately 36 man-days were spent for fire suppression in Glacier National Park.

Accidents. Seven automobile accidents were reported in the Park during the month. None was of a serious nature and no important personal injuries resulted.

Mr. Lloyd J. Velkal, Eldorado, Kansas, who was employed by the Stanolind Oil Company near Powell, Wyoming, rented a boat from the Yellowstone Park Company at Fishing Bridge on August 16 and started out, apparently to fish, on Yellowstone Lake. An intensive search was made for him that night and for several days thereafter, but no trace of the man or the boat was found. It is assumed that the man was drowned.

Two other persons were victims of minor accidents during the month, but injuries sustained were not serious.

Miscellaneous. A daughter was born to Park Ranger and Mrs. Charles E. White on August 2, at Jackson, Wyoming.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kocher at the Park Hospital, Livingston, Montana, on August 24. Mr. Kocher is one of our automobile mechanics, and Mrs. Kocher is a Park telephone operator.

Edmund A. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In Sextuplicate.

cc: Region Two (in dupl.)

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